

GEORGE A. ROMERO
ALEX MALEEV



SOUTH

Washington Br

EMPIRE OF THE DEAD

**PARENTAL
ADVISORY!
NOT FOR KIDS!**

004

MARVEL

EMPIRE
OF THE
DEAD 4
10/15





PAUL
BARNUM

Welcome to New York



MAYOR
CHANDRAKE



PENNY
JONES



XAVIER

THE EMPIRE STATE OF THE DEAD



BILL
CHANDRAKE

FIVE YEARS AFTER THE DEAD FIRST WALKED, NEW YORK CITY HAS BECOME A FORTRESS OF ISOLATION AGAINST THE UNDEAD PLAGUE. THE CITY IS SAFEGUARDED BY THE MILITARISTIC FORCES OF MAYOR CHANDRAKE, WHO RULES THE CITY WITH HIS SECRET CABAL OF VAMPIRES! CHANDRAKE KEEPS THE MASSES ENTERTAINED USING ZOMBIES AS GLADIATORS, BUT PENNY JONES, A MEDICAL SCIENTIST, AND A ZOMBIE WRANGLER NAMED PAUL BARNUM ARE WORKING TO TAME THE ZOMBIE GLADIATOR XAVIER, WHO EXHIBITS INTELLIGENCE...THAT IS, UNTIL XAVIER USES HER INTELLIGENCE TO ESCAPE! ELSEWHERE, ANOTHER SMARTER-THAN-AVERAGE ZOMBIE, LITTLE JOHN, LEADS A GROUP OF ZOMBIES UPTOWN THROUGH THE UNGUARDED SUBWAYS, TOWARDS THE CENTER OF THE CITY'S LIVING HUMANS...

GEORGE ROMERO
WRITER

MATT HOLLINGSWORTH
COLOR ARTIST

ALEX MALEEV
ARTIST & COVER ARTIST

VC'S CORY PETIT
LETTERER

ARTHUR SUYDAM
NYC VARIANT COVER ARTIST

IDETTE WINECOOR PETER GRUNWALD
PRODUCTION PRODUCER

JAKE THOMAS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

BILL ROSEMAN
EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALPHABET CITY.



I OWN
THIS STREET AND
EVERYTHING ON IT.
THAT SANDWICH IS
MINE, BOY!



I'M NOT
A BOY, I'M
A GIRL.

AND IF YOU
WANT THIS
SANDWICH YOU'RE
GONNA HAFTA
COME AND
GET IT!



I'LL CATCH
YOU, AND I'M
STRONG ENOUGH
TO RIP YOU
APART!



WHUD



RRROWRR!

SPLUTCH





AM NOT...
GOOD.OV



NOT GOOD.Y
KAT I'M NOT MY
GOOD FORPH
ASC CHILDREN.

WHERE YA
GOIN'?



HEY, YOU! WHADAYA
THINK, YOU'RE TOO GOOD
FOR ME, OR SOMETHING? TELL
YA WHAT, I'M BETTER
THAN YOU.

'CAUSE I'M
NOT DEAD! THAT
MAKES ME BETTER!
SO YOU DONT...
JUST...



...JUST
WALK AWAY
FROM ME.



BRR BAD,BH BAD
H THINGS WILL
COME,WHEN
YTRNL YOU ARE
WITH ME,HOP

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE TRYING
TO SAY, BUT...I
FEEL THAT YOU
AND ME...

...WE'RE
FRIENDS.



BETTER
FRIENDS THAN
I GOT ANYWHERE
ON THESE STREETS.
FRIENDS.
UNDERSTAND?

THAT MEANS...
YOU HELP ME
AND I HELP YOU.
WHenever ONE
OF US NEEDS
HELP.

ASFFFRFRY
FF FRIENDS.

UNDER THE ARENA.



→YAWN→
GOTTA...STAY AWAKE.
GOTTA FIND...→YAWN→THE
THING THAT MAKES THE
FLESH-EATERS DIFFERENT...
FROM US.

THEY'RE NOT
THAT DIFFERENT.
FROM...*SOME*
OF US.

MAYOR! Y-YOU
SCARED ME. I DIDN'T
THINK YOU MADE...
HOUSE CALLS.

I NORMALLY
DON'T, MS. JONES.
PARTICULARLY NOT AT
THREE IN THE MORNING.
BUT YOU'RE A NIGHT
OWL, LIKE ME.

I CALLED
YOUR HOSPITAL.
THEY TOLD ME
YOU WERE HERE.
I THOUGHT I'D
COME AND
SEE...

BUT *THIS*? THIS IS
IMPOSSIBLE. HOW CAN
YOU WORK IN THESE
CONDITIONS?

I CAN'T ALLOW
IT. I'M GOING TO
SET UP A WHOLE NEW
LABORATORY FOR
YOU.

I'M GRATEFUL
TO BE HERE. PAUL
MADE ROOM FOR ME
AND IT'S REALLY
USEFUL TO BE CLOSE
TO MY...PATIENTS.

WHY ARE
YOU TAKING SUCH
AN INTEREST?

I'M THE MAYOR OF
THIS CITY. THE FLESH-
EATERS POSE A THREAT
TO ALL OF US...ALL OF
US WHO ARE STILL
ALIVE.

IF YOU
CAN FIND A
WAY TO TAME
THEM...

I DON'T
THINK I CAN...
ANY MORE THAN
I COULD TAME
A LION.

THEY'RE
NATURALLY
AGGRESSIVE. WHAT
I'M TRYING TO DO
IS *RE-CHANNEL*
THAT AGGRESSION.

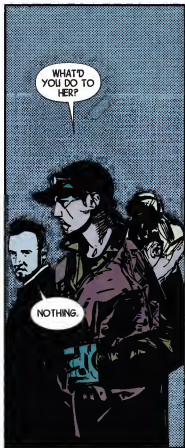
THINK OF ME AS A LION.
WHAT WOULD YOU DO
WITH ME...

...IF I WERE
TO COME AFTER
YOU?

I WOULD
POLITELY ASK
YOU...TO GO
AWAY.

I WOULDN'T
GO EASILY.
I'M ALWAYS
SEARCHING
FOR...

...ANOTHER
ADDITION...TO
MY PRIDE.

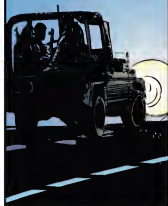


FDR DRIVE.

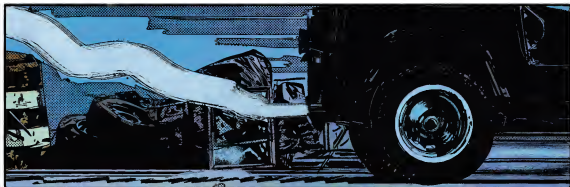
EXIT 12
E 63RD ST
25 EAST
E 4TH KCH
Queensboro B
NEXT RIGHT



BRPP SOLDIERS, B



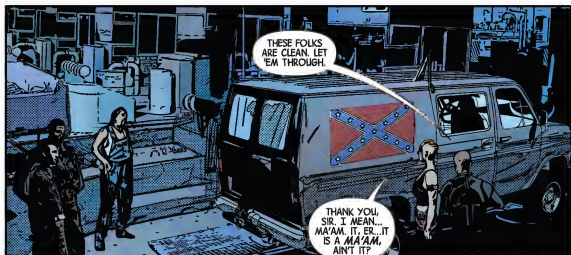
BE CAREFUL, BO
YSDACHIDE, AN



WE THREE SOLDIERS, B, COULD
HAVE TAKEN LIFE FROM B
THREE, MW, EASY, WLS, BUT N
MORE WOULD COME, C, B, D







THESE FOLKS
ARE CLEAN. LET
'EM THROUGH.

THANK YOU,
SIR. I MEAN...
MA'AM. IT, ER...IT
IS A MA'AM,
AIN'T IT?



WANNA FIND
OUT FOR SURE?
MEET ME AT PETE'S
TAVERN. OLDEST
GIN JOINT IN
NEW YORK.

I'LL BE
THERE AROUND
TWO.

GIN JOINTS
STAY OPEN
THAT LATE?



IN
PROTECTED
ZONES,
YEAH.

TWO A.M.
THAT'LL GIVE US
TIME FOR A COUPLE
OF DRINKS. THEN,
WE CAN GO...
SOMEPHASE
ELSE.



THIS IS WHY
WE COME NORTH,
ASHLEY. TO GET US
A BITE OUTA THIS
BIG APPLE.

WE GONNA
TAKE THIS TOWN
BY STORM. GONNA
WIN US THE
JACKPOT!

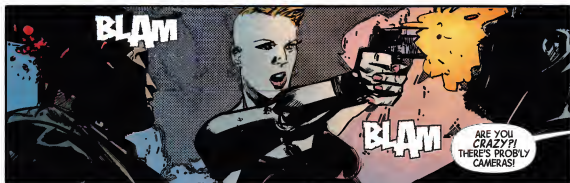
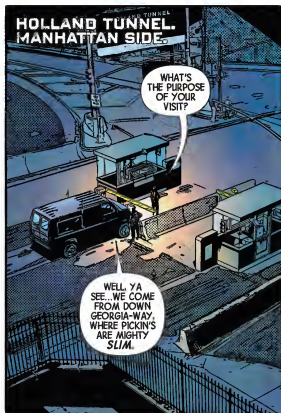
HOPE WE WIN
IT FOR REAL THIS
TIME, DIXIE. 'STEAD OF
HAVIN' TO PRETEND
WE DID, LIKE BACK
IN THE DAY.



IF THINGS WAS
FAIR BACK THEN,
ASHLEY, THE NORTH
WOULD NEVER
HAVE BEAT US.

WELL, IT'S
A NEW DAY,
AND THIS IS GONNA
BE A BRAND-NEW
GETTYSBURG!









MEN, KL P OP
J P O X G U N S, R A J
D G E T A W A Y, B



G U N D E R, K L
B I A M, I G O
D W U N D E R.



B I A M, I G O
D W U N D E R.
B I A M, I G O
D W U N D E R.
B I A M, I G O
D W U N D E R.

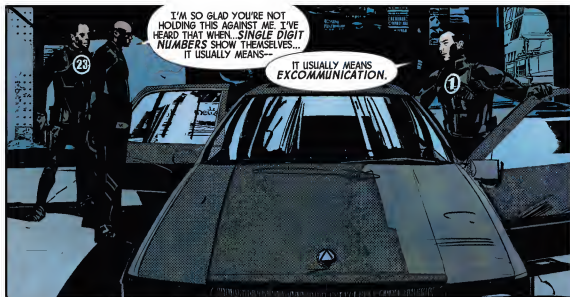


O F I N D, F W P E W
D Y A N O T H E R,
Y P L A C E, I I O Y









I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE NOT
HOLDING THIS AGAINST ME. I'VE
HEARD THAT WHEN...**SINGLE DIGIT
NUMBERS** SHOW THEMSELVES...
IT USUALLY MEANS--

IT USUALLY MEANS
EXCOMMUNICATION.



NOT IN YOUR CASE,
AS LONG AS YOU REMAIN
COOPERATIVE, MAY I
ASK, THIS MEETING YOU
ARRANGED...

...WHERE WAS
IT SUPPOSED TO
TAKE PLACE?



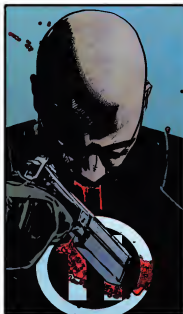
PETE'S
TAVERN.
TWO THIS
MORNING.



HEY!



KA-
CLICK



A SURE KILL. WHETHER YOU'RE ONE OF US OR NOT, A SLIVER OF WOOD IN THE HEART, AND YOU'RE FINISHED.



YOU'RE NEW TO OUR MEMBERSHIP.

I WAS HONORED TWO YEARS AGO.

HOW MANY EXCOMMUNICATIONS HAVE YOU ATTENDED?



THIS IS MY FIRST. SO, I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU TRUSTED ME WITH THIS RESPONSIBILITY...



HNNGH!



HOLY--!

RRRAARR!





OUR MEMBERS
HAVE ALWAYS HAD
A HARD TIME
UNDERSTANDING
THAT ANYONE--

--ANYONE--

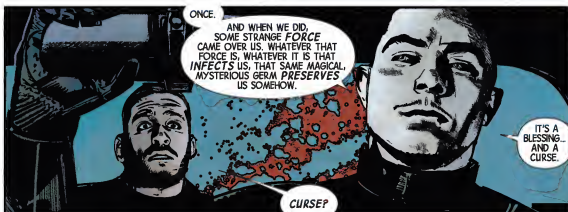
--WHO DIES
THESE DAYS,
BECOMES A
FLESH-EATER.



BUT
YOU AND I,
SIR--

--AND THIS
ONE--

--WE ALL
DIED.



ONCE.

AND WHEN WE DID,
SOME STRANGE **FORCE**
CAME OVER US. WHATEVER THAT
FORCE IS, WHATEVER IT IS THAT
INFECTS US, THAT SAME MAGICAL,
MYSTERIOUS GERM **PRESERVES**
US SOMEHOW.

IT'S A
BLESSING...
AND A CURSE.

CURSE?



FOR CENTURIES, A
SLIVER OF WOOD SEEMED
TO BE THE ONLY THING
THAT COULD KILL US. THEN,
TO OUR DISAPPOINTMENT, WE
DISCOVERED THAT IT DIDN'T
NEED TO BE WOOD. ANYTHING
THAT SEPARATED THE HEART,
LEFT FROM RIGHT, WOULD
DESTROY US.

WE'VE ALWAYS
THOUGHT OF OURSELVES
AS **IMMORTAL**. THE
ULTIMATE DISAPPOINTMENT
COMES WITH THE
REALIZATION THAT...



...WE STILL
HAVE TO FACE
DEATH.

IN THAT WAY,
WE MIGHT AS WELL
BE **HUMAN**.

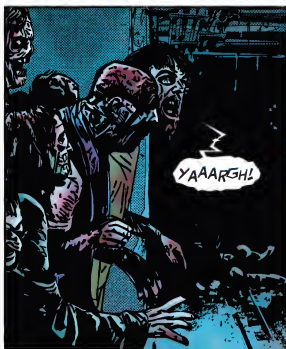




OOO NO, JUDD



GEEZ!
WORST THING I
EVER SAW!

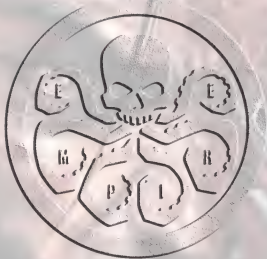


YAAARGH!



DEAF SAFE, FFF
AYTS SAFE
NOW, YOSA

TO BE CONTINUED...



WALKER

